

# **COLLECTION OVERVIEW**

## **CANADIAN STUDIES**

### **I. SCOPE**

This overview describes the Library of Congress holdings of material emanating from or about Canada in every major field of study. Some major subject classifications are: Canadian History, F1001-1145.2; Canadian Political Science, JL1-5; Canadian Law, KE1- KEZ 999; and Canadian Literature, PS 800 1-8599.

### **II. SIZE**

The Library of Congress holds the largest Canadian collection in the U.S. The Library has no overall piece count by geographic source or content and Canadian material can be found in almost all parts of the Library of Congress classification scheme from A to Z, with the heaviest concentrations of material in history, political science, and literature. There is also Canadian material in various formats and specialized collections, including microfilm, maps, government documents and newspapers. A June, 2008 search of OCLC under the subject term Canada shows 55,307 items. Under keyword: 76,630 items. In addition, the Library collects full-text Canadian digital material in electronic resources.

### **III. GENERAL RESEARCH STRENGTHS**

The strength of the Canadian collection lies in the diversity of its materials and in the variety of languages collected. The Library collects Canadian material at the research level: the major published source materials required for researching scholarly dissertations and independent research. The Library collects material in both Canadian official languages, French and English. The Library also collects in several immigrant languages from this multi-ethnic society: for instance, East European and Asian languages. The Library also collects in languages such as French and Spanish for pluralistic cultures (such as the Caribbean) which have many emigrants living in Canada.

In general, Canadian material is dispersed throughout the general collections. The history, literature, political science, library and information science, and genealogy areas are all strong. Canadian legal materials and government documents are also noteworthy, and based on the historical relationship of the Library as a depository Library for Canadian government documents.

### **IV. AREAS OF DISTINCTION**

There are important Canadian materials available in microform, including such collections as: (1) Pre-1900 Canadiana, an ongoing project which eventually will include essentially all books and pamphlets, published both in Canada, and about Canada, prior to 1900, and covering a wide variety of subjects related to Canada; (2) Western Americana, 1550-1990, a collection of printed sources covering frontier history of the trans-Mississippi west, including western Canada, and (3) Pre-1900 Canadian Directories, a collection which includes Canadian directories and gazetteers from provinces, counties, townships, cities and towns.

Much of value to the researcher can be found in the collections of the Law Library, Geography and Map, Manuscripts, Music, Newspapers and Government Publications, and Rare Books. For example, the Ruth Rubin Collection, contains field recordings of Canadian Jewish folklore 1940-1960, and the Laura Boulton Collection includes field recordings of traditional vocal and instrumental music in Canada 1930-1960. The Library has a good collection of historical Canadian newspapers, and has an excellent exchange program for Canadian government documents for many years.

## **V. ELECTRONIC RESOURCES**

Since the late 1990s, the Library has collected an increasing amount of digital material in response to Canadian publication: for instance, the migration of government documents to digital format, as well as the inclusion of digital material in other electronic resources. Important bibliographic resources for Canadian digital material are: AMICUS Web, which searches over 26 million bibliographic records from 1,300 Canadian libraries, and includes access to Library and Archives Canada Electronic Collection (over 17,000 titles, 64,000 serial issues, and millions of files) of which about 70% of the titles are federal government documents. In addition AMICUS Web supplies digital access for many books (notably those historical books digitized in the Canadiana database). The online Canada Depository Service Program (DSP) provides full text access to Canadian federal government publications.

Electronic resources collected include:

*Canadian Legal Information Database* contains primary legal and legislative sources for Canada, including Constitutional Documents, Statutes and Regulations, Supreme Court Cases, and Canadian Provincial Court Cases.

*Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information (CISTI)* includes published information in all areas of physical and life sciences, engineering, technology and health services.

In addition many of the more general electronic resources collected by the Library of Congress include a significant amount of Canadian material: bibliographic access in such databases as *America: History and Life*, *Book Review Digest*, and *Books in Print*; as well

as access to full-text, such as through the serial databases, *JSTOR* and *ProQuest*, and *Digital Dissertations*.

## **VI. WEAKNESSES/EXCLUSIONS**

These areas include some sections of natural history and biology, some education and sociology pertaining to solely Canadian conditions, self-help books, some children's literature (a representative sample is collected) and some fiction excluded from the Library's scope (eg. exclusively published in paperback). The Library does not have subscription access to Canadiana (some of the titles in this subscription database of digital titles are available for free online, and are all available through the microform set mentioned above); nor does it have the microform collection of nineteenth-century Canadian serials, which is a separate set and not included in pre-1900 Canadiana. Only a representative collection of current national and provincial newspaper titles is maintained; all Canadian newspapers (including the many important ethnic titles) are collected by the Library and Archives, Canada. In addition, some ethnic newspapers not collected by the Library of Congress are available at the free website: *Multicultural Canada* (<http://www.multiculturalcanada.ca/ctimes>) Canadian hard copy dissertations are not collected, in accordance with the Library's policy against acquiring foreign dissertations. However, these are available at *Digital Dissertations*, the subscription database of doctoral dissertations and master's theses, with coverage from 1861 to the present.